

What Would Happen If We Stopped Vaccinations?

These diseases still exist and can become common again
- and deadly- if vaccination coverage does not continue
at high levels.

Polio

Polio virus causes acute paralysis that can lead to permanent physical disability and even death. Before polio vaccine was available, 13,000 to 20,000 cases of paralytic polio were reported each year in the United States. These annual epidemics of polio often left thousands of victims--mostly children--in braces, crutches, wheelchairs, and iron lungs. The effects were life-long.

Development of **polio vaccines** and implementation of polio immunization programs **have eliminated paralytic polio** caused by wild polio viruses **in the U.S. and the entire Western hemisphere.**

In 1999, as a result of global immunization efforts to eradicate the disease, there were about 2,883 documented cases of polio in the world.

Protect Someone You Love – Immunize!

For more information: